



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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#### TWO CARLOADS OF CORN HELD IN READINESS TO STOP BIRD DEPREDACTIONS

Two carloads of corn are being distributed to strategic points in the Chesapeake Bay, Back Bay, and Currituck Sound areas as a protection against bird depredations in those areas, the Department of the Interior reported today.

Cold and snow have already sent flocks of geese into the farmlands around Back Bay, Virginia, and the possibilities of additional storms have made it advisable to protect the agricultural crops against further depredations, and to alleviate starving or suffering of geese and ducks which may be forced inland, officials said.

The grain will be distributed under the direction of enforcement officers of the Department's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, when and if depredation conditions warrant. The Bureau's refuge managers and personnel of the State Game Departments will aid in the distribution.

One carload of corn was secured from a Baltimore source, the other from Norfolk, Virginia. It was made available through the Commodity Stabilization Service under authorization by Congress to supply grain to prevent depredations.

Bureau fliers and ground personnel continue to investigate reports of bird starvation in the Chesapeake Bay region. All birds were found to be in good condition but more snow could drive thousands of them from the remaining open water areas into the farmlands.

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